Motor Vehicle Services
TAILLITE

MAY 1991 VOL. 18 NO. 1 New Jersey Department of Law and Public Safety, Division of Motor Vehicles

Motorcycle inspection switched to mild months

By Maureen A. Sczpanski

Motor Vehicle Services has started to phase out the old motorcycle inspection system by reassigning people who would usually get their bikes inspected in the winter to the milder weather months.

As a result of recently passed legislation, all motorcycles must be inspected between April and October before the cold weather arrives and driving conditions may become hazardous for bike riders.

According to Tom Wright, a Technical Support supervisor, MVS is reassigning motorcycle registration expiration dates in an attempt to get all riders on the new, seven month schedule by the end of next summer.

To do this, MVS set up a schedule starting with motorcycle drivers who were due for inspection last November.

For instance, riders with registrations that expired in November 1990 should come in for inspection in April 1992, while people with registrations that were due last December were reassigned to May 1992. This pattern continues with January 1991 registrations now due in June 1992, February 1991 renewals due in July 1992 and finally March 1991 registrations delayed until September 1992.

All motorcycles must be inspected between April and October.

"We started with last winter since many of these people don't normally come in on time because of the weather," Wright said. "When they renew their registrations, MVS will give them cards that exempt them from inspection this year. They must carry these cards when they ride their bikes in case they're stopped by a police officer."

August was not included in the new renewal cycle, since many people are away on vacation that month, Wright explained.

By September 1992, all motorcycle riders should be on the new renewal cycle, he added.

New inspection stickers were also designed for the program. Similar to those used for other vehicles, the motorcycle stickers now include the month the bike must be inspected. Before, this information was not on the stickers, making it hard for police to see if a bike was overdue for inspection.

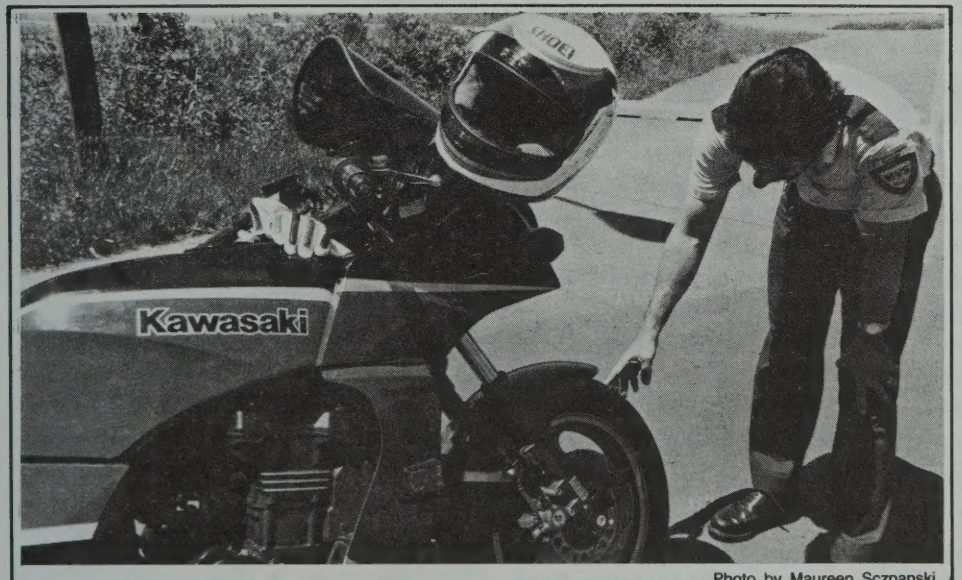


Photo by Maureen Sczpanski

Safety Specialist 1 Andrew Solimine, Bakers Basin Inspection Station, inspects a motorcycle earlier this month. MVS is phasing out motorcycle inspections during the winter months, when driving can be hazardous.

MVS makes first CDLIS hook-up

The first hook-up linking Motor Vehicle Services to the commercial driver license information system (CDLIS) was made this month, bringing New Jersey a step closer to licensing commercial drivers.

According to Bill Donahue, office automation specialist 1 in Systems Management, the link allows motor vehicle computers to "talk" to the computers in CDLIS.

"CDLIS was created for two reasons," he explained. "First, the hook-up will allow us to make sure that New Jersey's commercial drivers aren't licensed in any other

(Cont. on Page 4)

THE TALK AT MVS

Thanks to quick action by **Bob Norton, John Santoro, Joseph Youncofski** and **Ed Burns,** a potential tragedy was averted at the Jersey City Inspection Station. When an electrical fire started in the engine of a pick-up truck, the four MV people grabbed fire extinguishers and put the fire out.

Co-workers are planning a retirement dinner for **Gussie Summers,** supervisor 2 at the Quakerbridge Plaza CDL testing facility, on June 28 at the La Mariche Restaurant in Robbinsville. Tickets are available from **Cindy Scorsolini, Mary Miller, Geri Tumillo** and **Sylvia Hicks.**

Welcome back to **Ed McGrath,** supervisor 1 in the Inventory and Control Unit, who was recuperating at home from surgery.

Rita Lambert, customer service rep 1 at the North Plainfield Driver Testing Center, is proud of her granddaughter, four-year-old **Lauren Darr,** who recently won first place in the Little Miss Hemisphere Contest. She was given a crown and a scholarship to modeling school. She'll also enter the state pageant.

Congratulations to **Anne Thomas,** secretarial assistant 3 in the Motor Carriers Unit, and husband, Robert, on the birth of their daughter, **Meghan Anne.**

Jessie Timm, R.N., is a grandmother again, with the birth of **Justine Marie Schrader** on March 17 to her daughter and son-in-law, **Karen** and **Frank Schrader.**

Lillian Jamar, customer service representative 3 at the North Plainfield Driver Testing Center, is a grandmom to twin boys born to her daughter-in-law, **Mary,** and son, **Brian. Michael** and **Rodney** arrived April 17. Although there are 12 grandchildren, this is the first set of twins.

Syed Wasti, audit specialist in the Internal Audit Unit, reports his daughter, **Neelofur Fausti,** an eighth-grader at the Crocker Middle School in Hamilton Township, won first place in a statewide essay contest. Her essay was entitled "Why I want to live in a drug-free America by the year 2000."

Photo by George Robinson

***FUTURE DRIVERS**—Vince Pennacchi, manager of the Trenton Regional Service Center, shows the driver test to girl scouts during the annual government day March 14 in Trenton. MVS hosted 26 scouts and four chaperones from Holly Shores Council in Newfield, Camden County Council, Greater Essex Council and the Delaware-Raritan Council. After questions were fielded, Joan Kurtz, of the Driver Education and Improvement Unit, told the scouts about the probationary driver program. Each girl received a copy of the* Driver Manual.

Card of thanks

Thanks, everyone, for your thoughtfulness, concern, kindness and generosity during my recent illness. Your flowers, money and cards kept my spirits up. I didn't realize I had so many friends at MVS who cared so much.

Dawn Brower
Special Services Section

PERSONNEL TIPS

By Ed Besko

If you haven't filed for your $35 eye exam and the $35 single lens/contact lens ($40 for bifocal or trifocal lens) reimbursements since July 1, 1989, you have until June 30. Employees and covered dependents can be reimbursed once every two years. (If you work full time as a video display terminal operator, you can be reimbursed annually.)

To get your refund, *hand deliver* an original receipt with name, eye exam and lens payment info to Janet Baur: Payroll Office, third floor, 25 S. Montgomery St.

* * *

When you return from leave, make sure your supervisor tells the Records Section in Personnel the date you returned.

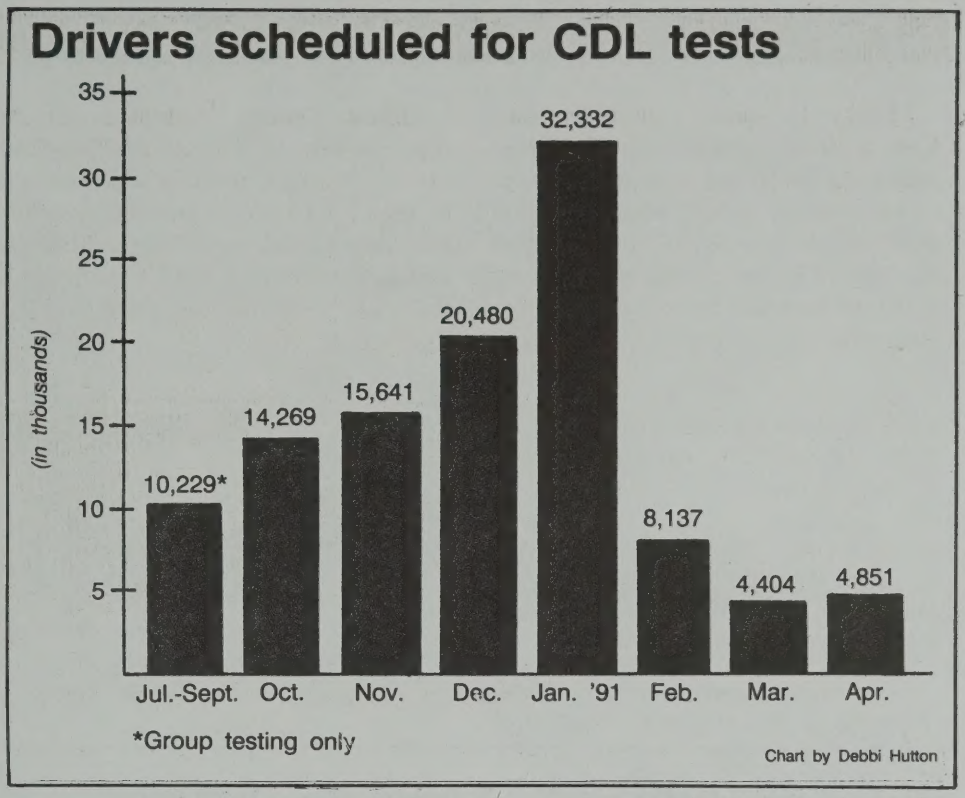
* * *

You recently received your public employment retirement system benefits statement. Be sure to look at the two boxes under the current information section on the left side. If the birth date or veteran status box is not checked, it means that the Division of Pensions needs acceptable proof to verify this info. A copy of the required documentation should be kept in MVS' personnel file. To do this, call Linda Finigan, at 609-292-4849.

CDL scorecard

Here's an update on the commercial driver license (CDL) effort since testing began on October 17:

- **13,000 drivers have been processed through the group testing program.**
- **110,343 drivers were scheduled for CDL tests.**
- **57,320 phone calls were answered by the CDL Transfer Group.**
- **2,826 pieces of correspondence were received about the CDL program.**
- **2,058 skills tests were administered (through March).**
- **16,000 employers were notified to ask their drivers to schedule tests.**
- **231,000 drivers received letters asking them to come in and be scheduled for CDL tests.**



CDL skills test version being streamlined

By Maureen A. Sczpanski

Commercial drivers taking the CDL skills test this summer will find a new, streamlined version in place.

Hoping to shorten the exam and make it easier to score, MV people have started refining the scoring sheet and looking at what's being tested.

Testing for the three-part skills exam can now take more than one hour and the road test portion alone may cover between 10 and 26 miles, depending on which of MVS' 16 sites the driver is being tested at.

Headed up by Pat Scheffer, manager, Regulatory Affairs, George Chewning, manager, HR/OD and Joe Vasil, safety specialist I, Technical Support, the streamlining effort will help MV people process more vehicles and spend less time on the road with drivers.

"Our time-frame for testing these people is running out," Scheffer said. "We want to avoid a last-minute crunch."

Based on recommendations from the Essex Corp., developers of the CDL manual and tests, the current skills test includes more items than the federal law actually requires states to test for.

Some of the changes include reducing the number of left and right turns from four to two and creating uniform road test courses.

"All of the courses should be about six miles long when we're done," said Scheffer.

New score sheets and course maps were designed to complement the changes.

Besides the on-road portion of the exam, the pre-trip inspection and the basic control skills sections were also fine-tuned, with minor changes made on the scoring sheets.

Gregg McAdams

Position: A supervisor 1 at Bakers Basin Inspection Station since December 1990, he's been a member of the Motor Vehicle team since 1978.

On flying: "My father owned an airplane, and I started flying when I was nine years old. At 16, I soloed and at 17 I got my pilot's license. I can fly any single engine aircraft under 12,500 pounds."

Personal stats: The 34-year-old former Montclair resident, his wife Arlene, and their dog, Sancho Panzo, live in Waretown, Ocean County.

Education: Seton Hall Prep, South Orange.

Favorite book: *The Left Seat,* by Robert Serling. Why? "It's a book about the evolution of an airline captain."

Personal Philosophy: "Base all of your decisions on fairness."

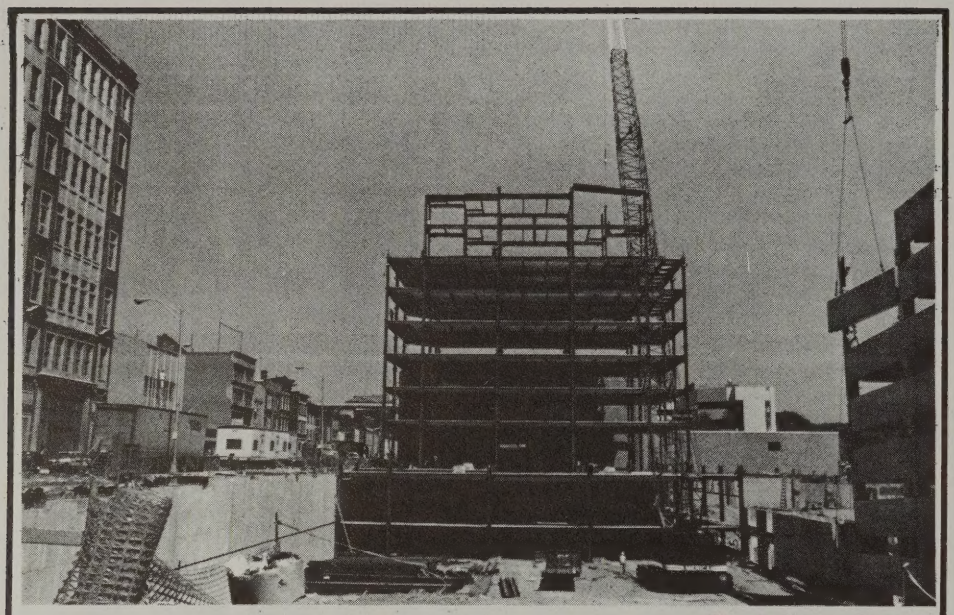


Photo by Maureen Sczpanski

FUTURE OF MVS—The new MVS central office building is rapidly taking shape, as construction progresses at E. State and S. Montgomery Sts. The building is expected to be completed in late 1992.

Don Giberson retires after 31 years

(EDITOR'S NOTE: A retirement dinner will be held July 20 for Assistant Director Donald H. Giberson at La Villa Ristorante, 2275 Kuser Rd. Reservations can be made by contacting Audrey Kerstetter, Renate Gribbin or Sue Fell.)

Dear co-workers:

On May 31, 1991, I will conclude more than 31 years service with the Division of Motor Vehicles by accepting early retirement.

It goes without saying that I will miss all of you. I consider myself very fortunate to have had the opportunity of working with you over the past years and I wish you all the very best for the future. Thanks for everything.

To me, early retirement means that I will be starting a new career with new initiatives, new goals and new co-workers. I will consider myself very fortunate if those with whom I will be working in the future demonstrate the dedication and resourcefulness of those I have had the pleasure of working with over the last three decades.

Donald H. Giberson
Assistant Director

CDLIS hook-up

(Cont. from Page 1)

state. It will also allow us to check the status of their licenses to make sure they're not suspended in other states."

Under the federal Commercial Driver License Program, drivers can be licensed in only one state. Their driving privileges also can't be suspended.

The CDLIS system will eventually be accessible at all agencies so MV people can tell at a glance if a commercial driver can be issued a CDL.

MVS hopes to start issuing CDLs this fall. All commercial drivers must be tested by April 1, 1992 or they can't legally operate their commercial vehicles.

THE MAILBAG

The following excerpts from letters to the division complimented MVS people.

Patience . . .

Charlotte Snyder (customer service information specialist 1, Surcharge Section) was put on hold by my conferencing feature and had to stay on the line about 10 minutes while I talked to two people.

When she finally got my attention, I was quite rude to her because I had been trying to get through . . .

Ms. Snyder paid no attention to my lunacy and calmly asked for my license number . . . She is cool under pressure and really focuses on customer service—even to occasionally irate customers such as myself.

We ended the conversation in a friendly way.

Lynne A. Thompson
Bridgewater

Upbeat . . .

During my car inspection at the Plainfield Inspection Station, I saw an upbeat and diligent attitude. A commendation should go to the station supervisor John Paulmeno, who in turn reflects the established policies of the division.

Richard Vartanian
Bound Brook

TALE LITE

State of New Jersey
Jim Florio, Governor

Department of Law and Public Safety
Robert J. Del Tufo
Attorney General

Motor Vehicle Services
Skip Lee
Acting Director

Tale Lite is printed monthly for people like Louisa Hitchner, exam technician 2, Cherry Hill Motor Vehicle Agency, as a forum for information, comments and concerns.

Employees are invited to share their stories, opinions and ideas by calling 609-292-8231, by mailing them to the Communications Office, CN 164, Trenton, NJ 08666, or by coming in person to the 6th floor, 25 S. Montgomery St.

Tale Lite Staff: Editor: George W. Robinson; Associate Editor: Maureen A. Sczpanski; Graphic Artist: Debbi Hutton; Contributor: Edyth Hetman; Editorial Consultant: H. Arthur Smith III; Communications Office Manager: Patricia M. Summers. Printed by Jules Caruso and the staff of Motor Vehicle Services Print Shop.